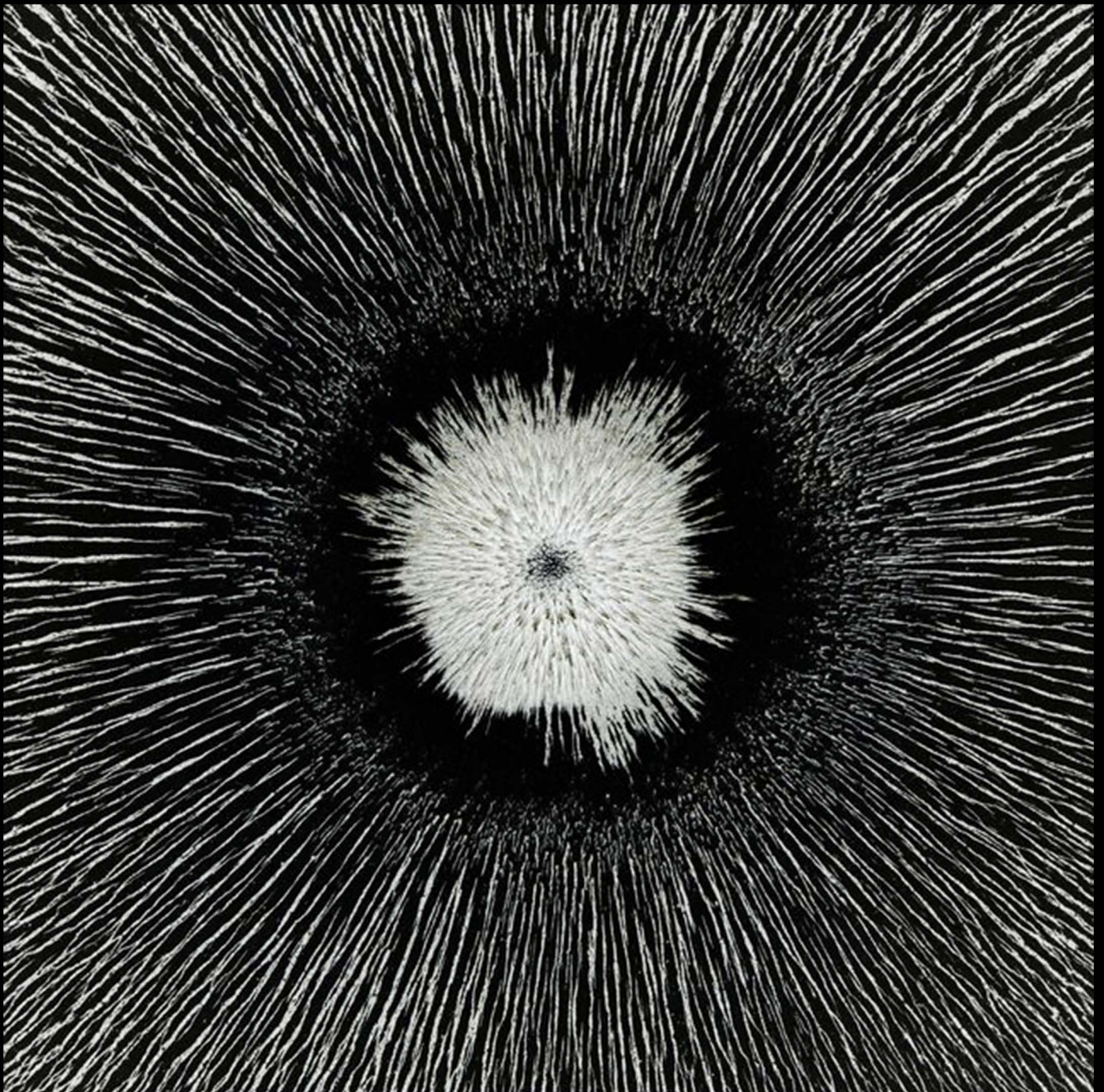




CYBERNETIC KSHETRA

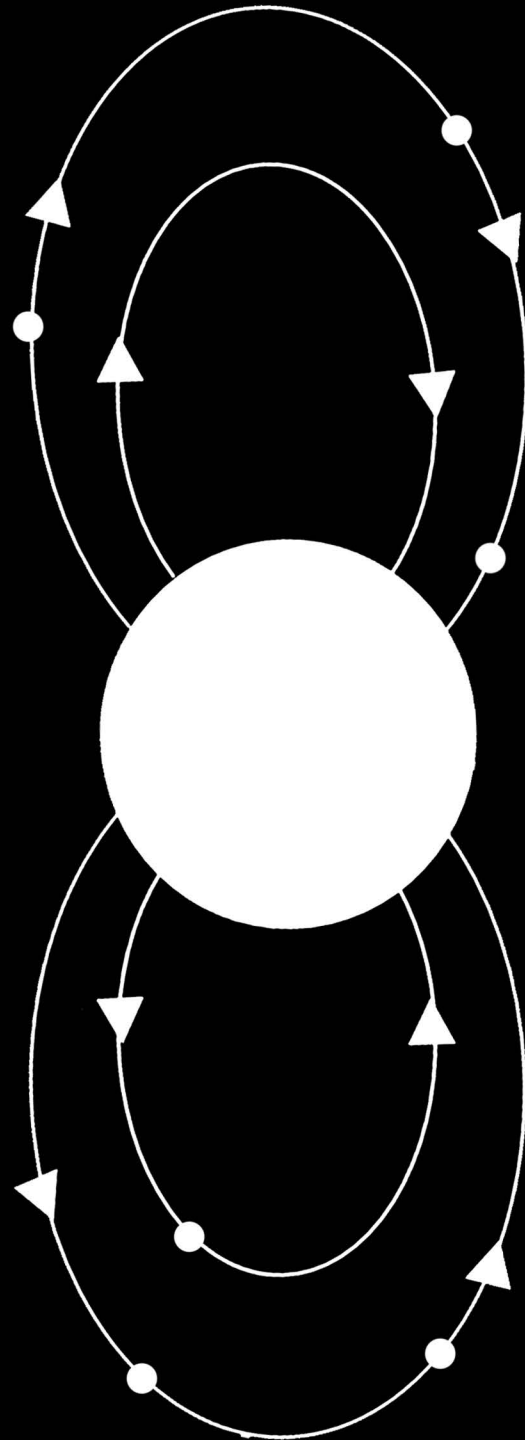


In Indian philosophy, the *Kshetra* is known as the field. However, in Indian thought objects are seen more like a magnetic field, as opposed to a plot of land. Not only this, but due to the fact that ancient Indian thought recognizes the cosmos as an intelligent entity, the field itself is adaptive and semi-conscious.

The core ideas of the magnetic field of *Kshetra* are centred around two concepts: *Bija* and *Vrtta*.

The *Bija* is comparable to the fruit and the seed. The fruit grows to its full ripeness it bursts with seeds, each itself containing the potential that leads back to the fruit. The question of which came first is therefore circular.

Vrtta is the changing of forms is central to Indian thought, whereby the death and rebirth of structures makes them dynamic and changing rather than static and lifeless.



Bija is the ability of an object to diverge and converge upon itself, like a magnetic field or water cycle.

Like fruit and seed, the bija's field picks up entities that reconverge upon it, transforming its original nature into something new. This is the "Kshetra".

The idea of fields is important to design in many ways.

Firstly, the idea of *cybernetics*.

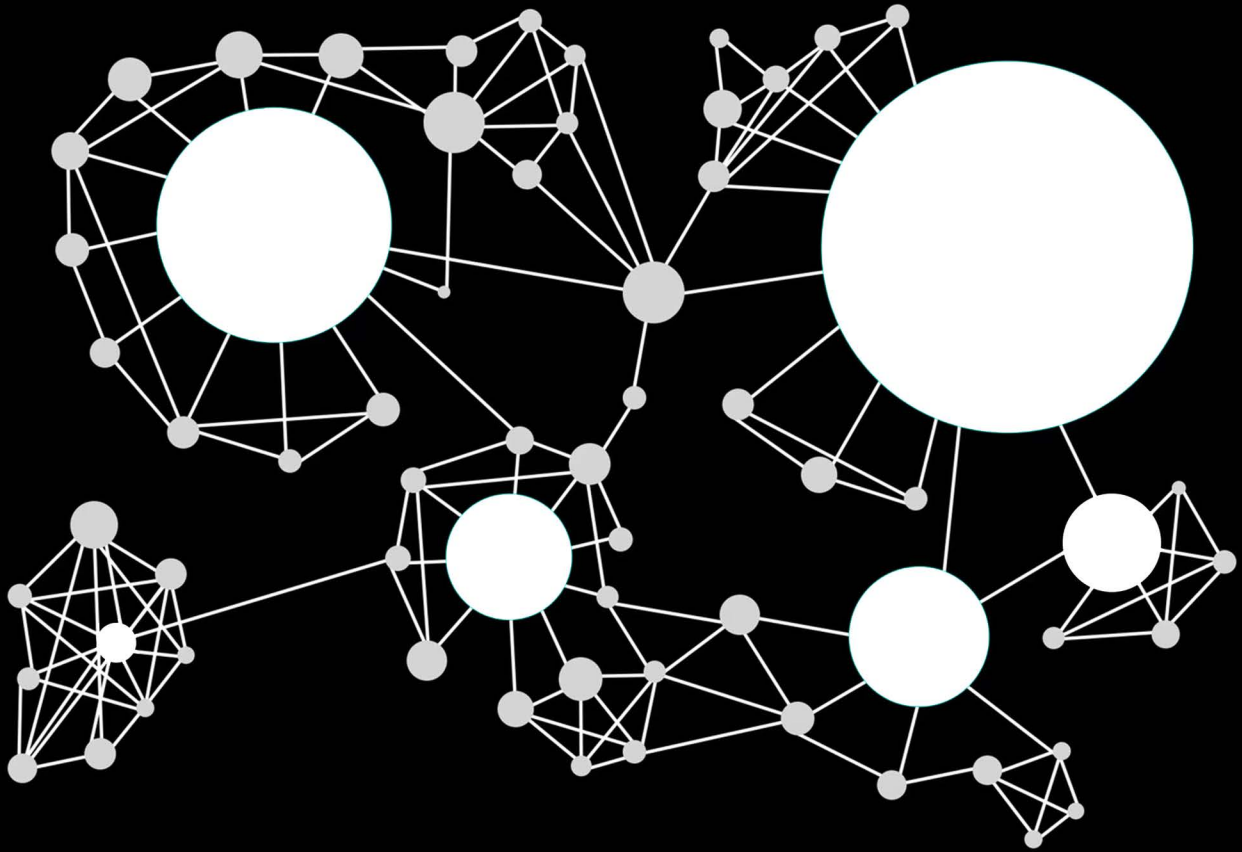
Cybernetics is roughly the study of feedback, or how systems can be affected by their own outputs.

Cybernetics is very untouched in design, despite its relevance in hook cycles, biofeedback, computer software and in complex wicked problems.

Secondly, the idea of networks.

Network science is an emerging discipline that studies the phenomenae around connected entities. Yet despite most of the world's problems, cultures and infrastructures existing as networks, the study of networks themselves has been ignored by mainstream design .

In both these concepts, the idea of fields are very important central metaphors.



Whether systems be ecology, social structures, or even the internet, networks are a central metaphor. The study of how things affect networks and how they compound over time to generate new, unpredictable outcomes is important to the design discipline. Successes at an individual design level can become failures at a collective level.

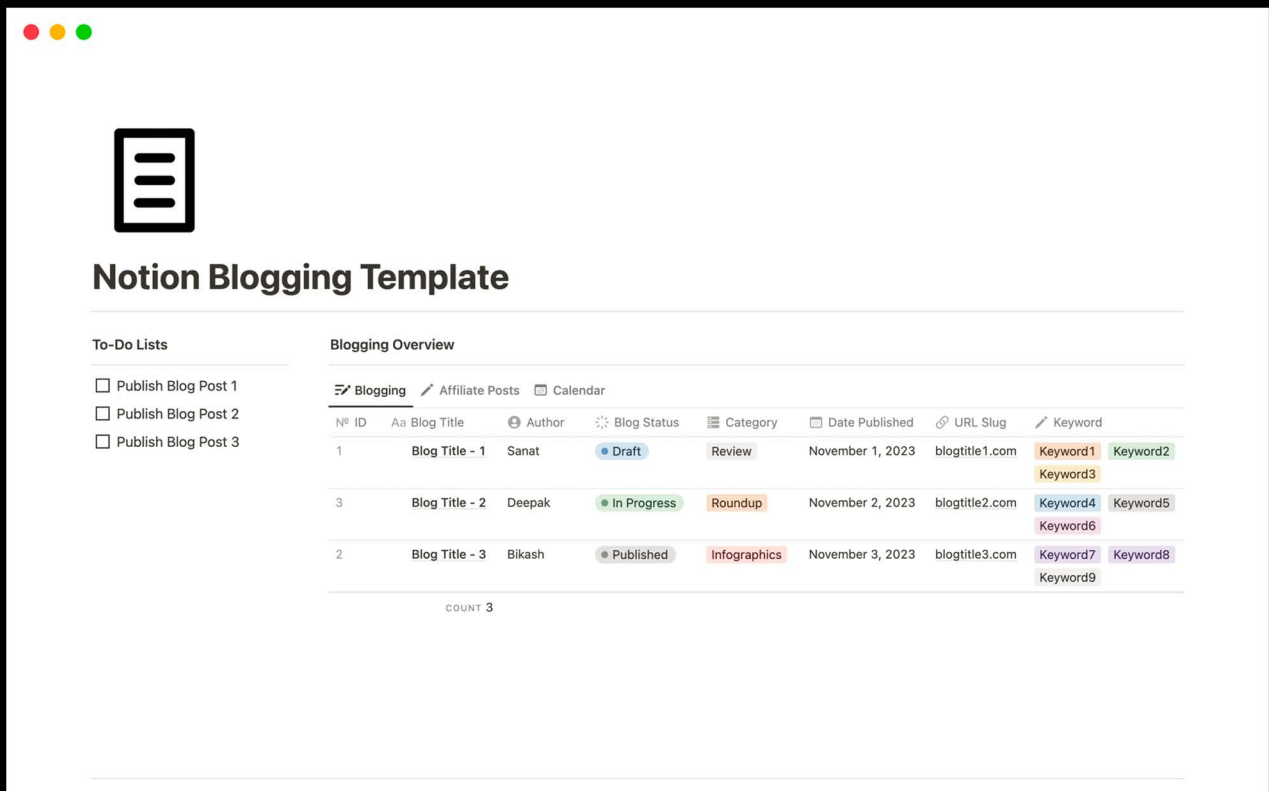
For example, Airbnb is a successful hotel booking app, but it's causing sky high housing prices in major cities. Social media at an individual level is succesful, but at connected higher levels leads to severe polarisation.

The most important use of fields as a concept may be at the intersections of open source design, participatory design and generative AI, allowing designers to design for emergence.

Open-source design is a form of design where users contribute their own parts to design systems. Figma, for example, allows user generated components to be accessed via search.

Participatory design is an emergent form of design that shifts the designer from authority to facilitator, thereby allowing locals to design solutions with local intelligence. By giving a design-kit, participants (like kids with LEGO) can construct their own solutions.

The scope of the design solution, free from the designer, then enlarges. GenAI, with its intelligence, then allows new adaptive nonlinear interfaces. Like the Bija, fully computational in nature.



Notion to a large extent already accomplishes this.

By providing users with tiny parts, templates and even AI assists, users can craft their own solutions as need be while also enlarging the use case via contribution through user content.

Computer software, unlike physical products, are naturally transient, cybernetic and networked objects.

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